GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1124
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2006
TREATMENT FOR CLEFT LIP PALATE DEFECT
Jagannath Dr. M.;Yerrannaidu Shri Kinjarapu

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 2.5 million children are suffering from a cleft lip or palate defect in the country as reported in The Asian Age dated December 28, 2005;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether any treatment facilities are available in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (e): No large studies have been carried out in India to establish the prevalence of cleft lip. However, as per rough estimates, the incidence of cleft lip and palate is approximately 1 per 700 to 1000 children. Considering the population of the country, it is estimated that approximately 1.5 million children are having cleft lip and palate.

The facilities for management of such deformities required surgical interventions and these are available both in public and private hospitals in the country. More than 1500 plastic surgeons, pediatric surgeons and maxillofacial surgeons are available to operate the cleft lip and palate children in the country. Such facilities are available at Central Government Institutions, namely Dr. R.M.L. Hospital, New Delhi, Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi. Kalavati Saran Children Hospital, Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi AIIMS, New Delhi, PGIMER, Chandigarh and JIPMER, Pondicherry.